(iv) Allocation of cattle grade feed to Rajasthan;

(v) Free transportation of water and fodder by the Railways;

(vi) One-time drought relief increase in the procurement of various kharif crops;

(vii) Formulation of a scheme with outlay of Rs. 50 crores for providing assistance to cattle camps; and

(viii) Deputation of Teams led by Senior Officers for assessment of the situation.

Sugar Quota in European Union

5117. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are pressing European Union to open its sugar quota and allow imports of at least one lakh tonnes of the commodity into its member countries;

(b) whether this demand was make by the Agriculture Minister to the EU Trade Commissioner during later's visit to this country;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the EU Government; and

(d) to what extent the EU has agreed on the suggestions made by India?

THEMINISTEROF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) The WTO Agreement on Agriculture is presently under negotiations. One of the objectives of India during these negotiations is to seek greater market access for export of Indian agricultural products. As part of the negotiating process India is also making bilateral/plurilateral efforts with vairous countries/groups of countries to attain its objective of greater market access. India is having discussions with different countries including European Union (EU) on various aspects of agricultural trade. India has sought greater market access for its agricultural products in the international market. The negotiations on Agreement on Agriculture are continuing.

Effect of Climate Change on Agriculture

5118. SHRIMATI N.P.DURGA:

SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to study the impact of climate change on agriculture in view of long bout of freak whether in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of measures need to be adopted to protect hilly areas, coastal eco-system, fisheries and rainfed crops?

THE MINISTEROF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEONARAYANYADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities located in different agro-ecological zones of the country including hilly, coastal and rainfed eco-system will study impacts of climate change on agriculture and mitigation strategies to devise suitable measures.

Competition in Export Market

5119. DR AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the challenge from the Agricultural Exporting giants under the WTO regime, Government have drawn out any strategy to help Indian farmers and plants to effectively compete in the World Export Market;

(b) if so, the details of the strategy; and

(c) the steps taken being/are taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTEROF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEONARAYANYADAV): (a) to(c) Export of agricultural products is continually reviewed on an on-going basis by the Government through its agencies. The Government provides a variety of incentives in the form of financial and other assistance through its agencies such as Commodity Boards, Authorities etc. for infrastructure development, modem packaging units, quality and quality control, market development and creation of Agri Export Zones (AEZs) to promote agricultural export in the world market.

Announcing MSP of Crops before Sowing

5120. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are con templating to announce policy of Minimum Support Price of gins prior to sowing of crops by farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTEROF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) At present there is no proposal under consideration to announce the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of gins.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government already announces the MSPs of 25 major agricultural commodities.